

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing in the above-identified application. In particular, applicants respectfully submit that *Adell* (U.S. Patent No. 3,212,661) does not show, teach or suggest a trunk portion formed by four flat planar sides or by four side surfaces formed by flat planes as claimed in claims 1, 12, 13 and 20. Rather, *Adell* discloses raised beads 26 formed along the body portion 20 in parallel to the longitudinal axis and a groove 30 adjacent to the bottom of the bottle.

Since nothing in *Adell* shows, teaches or suggests a trunk portion formed by four flat planar sides or by four side surfaces formed by flat planes as claimed in claims 1, 12, 13 and 20, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-24 are in condition for allowance.

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

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In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our
Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked up Copy of Claims 1, 12, 13 and 20

1. (Amended) A plastic container, comprising:
a bottom portion which has a substantially rectangular bottom surface;
a trunk portion which is formed by four [planes] flat planar sides which rise up vertically from respective sides of the bottom surface and which is substantially rectangular pipe-shaped;
a mouth portion whose surface area of a portion surrounded by a horizontal cross-section is smaller than the surface area of said trunk portion; and
a shoulder portion which is narrowed down from said trunk portion to said mouth portion;
wherein:
the amount of the contents of said plastic container is 800 to 3000 ml;
the average thickness of said trunk portion is 0.2 to 0.7 mm;
the ratio of a length H of said trunk portion to a length L of a diagonal line of a rectangle formed by outer periphery of a horizontal cross section of said trunk portion (H/L) is 2 to 4; and
each of the vertexes of the rectangle formed by the outer periphery of the horizontal cross-section of said trunk portion forms an arc-shaped configuration so that a radius R of curvature of the vertex is 3 to 20 mm.

12. (Amended) A plastic container for containing photographic processing chemicals, comprising:
a bottom portion which has a substantially rectangular bottom surface;
a trunk portion which is formed by four side surfaces formed by flat planes which rise up vertically from respective sides of the bottom surface and which is substantially rectangular pipe-shaped;
a mouth portion whose surface area of a portion surrounded by a horizontal cross section is smaller than the surface area of said trunk portion; and

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a shoulder portion which is narrowed down from said trunk portion to said mouth portion,

wherein:

the amount of the contents of said plastic container is 800 to 3000 ml;

the average thickness of said trunk portion is 0.2 to 0.7 mm;

the ratio of a length H of said trunk portion to a length L of a diagonal line of a rectangle formed by the outer periphery of a horizontal cross section of said trunk portion (H/L) is 2 to 4;

each of the vertexes of the rectangle formed by the outer periphery of the horizontal cross section of said trunk portion forms an arc-shaped configuration so that a radius R of curvature of the vertex is 3 to 20 mm; and

a removal opening is provided at the inner periphery of said mouth portion and is closed by a seal member which can be punched by one of a pipe-shaped body and a rod-shaped body.

13. (Amended) A plastic container, comprising:

a bottom portion which has a substantially rectangular bottom surface;

a trunk portion which is formed by four [planes] flat planar sides which rise up vertically from respective sides of the bottom surface and which is substantially rectangular pipe-shaped;

a mouth portion whose surface area of a portion surrounded by a horizontal cross section is smaller than the surface area of said trunk portion; and

a shoulder portion which is narrowed down from said trunk portion to said mouth portion,

wherein:

the amount of the contents of said plastic container is 800 to 3000 ml;

the average thickness of said trunk portion is 0.2 to 0.7 mm;

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Marked up Copy of Claims 1, 12, 13 and 20

the ratio of a length H of said trunk portion to length L of a diagonal line of a rectangle formed by the outer periphery of a horizontal cross section of said trunk portion (H/L) is 2 to 4;

each of the vertexes of the rectangle formed by the outer periphery of the horizontal cross section of said trunk portion forms an arc-shaped configuration so that a radius R of curvature of the vertex is 3 to 20 mm; and

a removal opening is provided at the inner periphery of said mouth portion and is closed by a seal member which can be punched by one of a pipe-shaped body and a rod-shaped body,

a method of supplying photographic processing chemicals which uses said plastic container, comprising the steps of:

holding said container for photographic processing chemicals filled with photographic processing chemicals above a replenishing tank of an automatic processor so that the removal opening of the container faces downwardly; and

opening the seal member of said container for photographic processing chemicals by pressing from below by a pipe-shaped body and opening said removal opening.

20. (Amended) A plastic container, comprising:

a bottom portion which has a substantially rectangular bottom surface;

a trunk portion which is formed by four side surfaces formed by flat planes which rise up vertically from respective sides of the bottom surface and which is substantially rectangular pipe-shaped;

a mouth portion whose surface area of a portion surrounded by a horizontal cross section is smaller than the surface area of said trunk portion; and

a shoulder portion which is narrowed down from said trunk portion to said mouth portion;

wherein:

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Marked up Copy of Claims 1, 12, 13 and 20

the amount of the contents of said plastic container is 800 to 3000 ml;

the average thickness of said trunk portion is 0.2 to 0.7 mm;

the ratio of a length H of said trunk portion to a length L of a diagonal line of a rectangle formed by the outer periphery of a horizontal cross section of said trunk portion (H/L) is 2 to 4;

each of the vertexes of the rectangle formed by the outer periphery of the horizontal cross section of said trunk portion forms an arc-shaped configuration so that a radius R of curvature of the vertex is 3 to 20 mm; and

a removal opening is provided at the inner periphery of said mouth portion and is closed by a seal member which can be punched by one of a pipe-shaped body and a rod-shaped body,

a device for supplying photographic processing chemicals which supplies photographic processing chemicals to an automatic processor using said container for photographic processing chemicals, comprising:

holding means which holds a container for photographic processing chemicals filled with photographic processing chemicals above a replenishing tank of an automatic processor so that the removal opening of the container faces downwardly;

a pipe-shaped body which is provided at said automatic processor so that said pipe-shaped body is able to be raised and lowered, said pipe-shaped body pressing from below the seal member of said container for photographic processing chemicals held by said holding means and opening said removal opening;

a discharge opening formed at said pipe-shaped body; and

supply means which is provided at said automatic processor and supplies washing water to said pipe-shaped body and discharges the washing water through said discharge opening.

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